

HSD UIR Meeting Notes 03/08/04

Present: Martin Freidman, Mary Flowers, David Berrian, Meredith Norfolk, Mary Shaw, Martha Ortiz, Georgiana Arnold, Ward Urion, Julie Nelson, Kim Russell-Martin, Dwight Mizoguchi, Evelyn Brom, and Brina Yeartie.

Martin facilitated the meeting.

There is an activist conference coming upon July 29th –August 1st sponsored by the Western States Center. It will be held in Oregon at Reed College. For more information contact Georgiana.

United Way update: Martha has a new co-chair for their Against Institutional Racism Group (AIRG) and they are working on their logic model.

National Conference update: The People's Institute for Survival and Beyond held their National Training in New Orleans at the end of February. Approximately 300 people attended with at least 50 being from Seattle. Kasey Family Programs sent around 20 people from their Seattle office. People spent the entire time in small table groups with 2 facilitators at each table and were able to build strong connections and have honest conversations with their groups. Participants said that the table talk model was a powerful tool and we may want to think about ways to use it here. The conference also had an emphasis on honoring women and spirituality. Next year is the 25th year anniversary and the focus will be on bringing your family.

United Way spoke to a problem they are facing where many people in their agency agree with anti-racism work and endorse what they are doing but they don't take the extra step to get involved. They also stated that they feel it will not become an agency wide priority until the leadership endorses it.

It was commented that getting the buy in from agencies that we serve can help our own agencies increase buy in.

The update for the "Race: the Power of the Illusion" video and training series was given by people who will be on the planning committee. The official representatives from the HSD UIR group are: Dwight Mizoguchi, Martin Friedman, Kathleen Groshong, and Ward Urion. Also on the committee will be Julie Nelson, Georgiana Arnold, and Pat Wells.

This effort is part of the Mayor's desire to have every department address race relations.

Managers will be required to attend but everyone else will be strongly encouraged.

The question was raised, what do we want to see come out of this whole process that we are co-sponsoring? Do we have specific goals and objectives?

It was suggested that we use people's work plans as an opportunity for implementation.

It was also stated that, as a department, we need to get on the same page in terms of history and racism today. How it is still perpetuated and how it still occurs. How will the videos and discussion get us there?

It was asked whether or not the discussion groups could stay together through out the training?

There is no timeline for the training as of yet.

It was asked by the committee members if there are issues that the group wants to make sure are raised?

There was comment stating that we need to be intentional about how we use this with our community partners.

United Way expressed interested in joining with us to view the videos and discuss them.

It was announced that Mickey Fearn and the Mayor's Race Initiative are moving to OCR and Mr. Fearn will report to Germaine Covington.

It was noted that the UIR meeting is sometimes a mostly white meeting but people stated that it was OK. That is the point that there can be a meeting of all white people and they will still be talking about ending racism. White people need to be clear about why it is in their best interest to end racism.

EAAR asked if they could have regular updates at every meeting to stay connected and accountable to the group. The group said yes.

Next Meeting: Monday March 22nd, 13th Floor Conference Room, 12pm-1pm.